

GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

Prairie Elk Hunting Season

Chapter 41:06:59

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	January 4-5, 2022	Pierre
	Public Hearing	April 7, 2022	Watertown
	Finalization	April 7-8, 2022	Watertown

COMMISSION PROPOSAL

Duration of Proposal: 2022 and 2023 hunting seasons.

Season Dates:

Unit	2022 & 2023 Hunting Season Dates
9A	September 15 - October 31 AND December 1-31
11A	July 15 - August 31
11B	September 1 - October 15
11C	October 16 - November 30
11D	September 1 - October 31
11E	November 1 - December 31
11F	January 1 - February 28
15A	September 1 - October 31 AND December 1-31
15B	December 1 - January 31
27A	October 1-31 AND December 1-31
35A	September 15 - October 31 AND December 1-31
35B	September 15 - October 31 AND December 1-31
49A	September 15 - October 31 AND December 1-31
WRA	September 1 - December 31

<u>Open Area:</u>	Unit 09A	Portions of Butte and Lawrence counties
	Unit 11A-F	Bennett County and portions of Jackson and Mellette counties
	Unit 15A and B	Portions of Butte and Lawrence counties
	Unit 27A	Portions of Fall River County
	Unit 35A	Harding County west of US Hwy. 85
	Unit 35B	Harding County east of US Hwy. 85
	Unit 49A	Portions of Meade County
	Unit WRA	Those portions of South Dakota west of the Missouri River not associated with another prairie elk unit, excluding the Lower Brule Indian Reservation and Corson, Dewey, Oglala Lakota, Todd, and Ziebach counties.

Licenses: No more than 100 “any elk” and 300 “antlerless elk” licenses (total of 400 licenses)

Requirements and Restrictions:

1. No person may possess more than one (1) elk license of any type in a year.
2. No more than two persons may submit applications together.
3. Except for landowner/operator preference applicants, no person who receives a license in the first drawing for this season shall be eligible to apply for a prairie elk license in first drawings for the next 9 years.
4. One-half of the licenses allocated in each unit are available for landowner/operator preference. One member of each qualifying landowner/operator household may apply every year.
5. Any elk that is harvested must be inspected by a Department representative within 24 hours after kill.

APPROVE _____	MODIFY _____	REJECT _____	NO ACTION _____
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Proposed changes from last year:

1. Adjust the number of licenses available from 78 “any elk” and 178 “antlerless elk” licenses (total of 256 licenses) to no more than 100 “any elk” and 300 “antlerless elk” licenses (total of 400 licenses).
2. Modify Unit PRE-9A (see map).
3. Establish a new unit (PRE-49A) to include a portion of Meade County and season dates (see map).
4. Correct season dates in administrative rule for units PRE-11B, PRE-11C, PRE-11D, PRE-35A, and PRE-35B.

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

The proposed maximum number of elk licenses will be established in administrative rule and the GFP Commission via administrative action will determine specific number of licenses by tag types and allocation amongst hunting units.

Updated population objectives and the recommended number of licenses will be shared at the March Commission meeting once preliminary harvest estimates have been obtained and population modeling exercises have been completed.

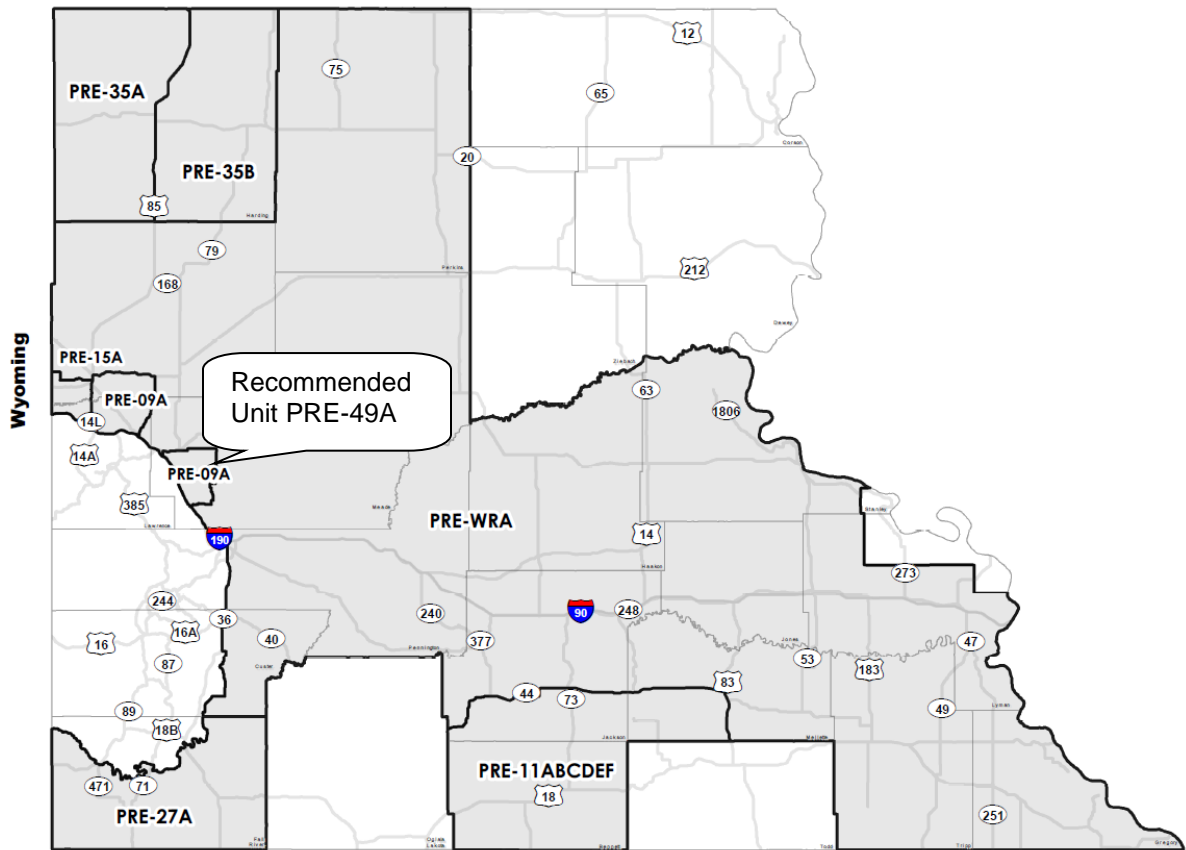
The proposed changes to prairie elk hunting unit boundaries and season date changes are to improve elk management on private land and simplify season dates.

Year	Licensed Hunters	Hunter Success	Bulls Harvested	Cows Harvested
2016	148	40%	32	27
2017	149	54%	41	39
2018	139	79%	59	51
2019	140	65%	41	50
2020	251	57%	56	87

2020	“Any Elk”				“Antlerless Elk”			
Unit	Licensed Hunters	Harvest Success	Bulls Harvested	Cows Harvested	Licensed Hunters	Harvest Success	Bulls Harvested	Cows Harvested
09A	10	63%	6	0	15	8%	0	1
11A	NA	NA	NA	NA	16	63%	0	10
11B	16	67%	11	0	NA	NA	NA	NA
11C	16	92%	13	1	NA	NA	NA	NA
11D	NA	NA	NA	NA	30	91%	1	26
11E	NA	NA	NA	NA	30	45%	1	12
11F	NA	NA	NA	NA	30	50%	0	16
15A	8	29%	1	1	5	0%	0	0
27A	9	83%	8	0	9	67%	0	6
35A	4	100%	4	0	7	60%	0	4
35B	4	100%	4	0	12	63%	2	6
WRA	10	50%	5	0	20	13%	0	3

APPROVE _____ **MODIFY** _____ **REJECT** _____ **NO ACTION** _____

Prairie Elk Units



DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES

The following are proposed draft changes that are intended to incorporate the recommended changes adopted by the Commission.

41:06:59:01. Prairie elk hunting season established -- Number and type of licenses available - - Season dates. The prairie elk hunting season is open from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset each day of the season. No more than ~~78~~ 100 "any elk" licenses and ~~478~~ 300 "antlerless elk" licenses may be issued for the prairie elk hunting season. The prairie elk hunting seasons are as follows:

- (1) Unit PRE-09A is open from September 15 through October 31 and from December 1 through December 31;
- (2) Unit PRE-11A is open from July 15 through August 31;
- (3) Unit PRE-11B is open from September 1 through ~~the Friday before the third Saturday in October~~ 15;
- (4) Unit PRE-11C is open from ~~the Saturday following the second Sunday of October~~ 16 through November 30;
- (5) Unit PRE-11D is open from September 1 through ~~December~~ October 31;
- (6) Unit PRE-11E is open from November 1 through December 31;

APPROVE _____	MODIFY _____	REJECT _____	NO ACTION _____
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- (7) Unit PRE-11F is open from January 1 through the last day of February;
- (8) Unit PRE-15A is open from September 1 through October 31 and from December 1 through December 31;
- (9) Unit PRE-15B is open from December 1 through January 31;
- (10) Unit PRE-27A is open from October 1 through October 31 and from December 1 through December 31;
- (11) Unit PRE-35A is open from September 4 15 through October 31 and December 1 through December 31;
- (12) Unit PRE-35B is open from September 4 15 through October 31 and December 1 through December 31; and
- (13) Unit PRE-49A is open from September 15 through October 31 and from December 1 through December 31; and
- ~~(13)~~ (14) Unit PRE-WRA is open from September 1 through December 31.

41:06:59:02. Open units. The following is a description of the open units for the prairie elk hunting season:

- (1) Unit PRE-09A: those portions of Lawrence and Butte Counties within a line beginning at the intersection of U.S. Highways 85 and 212, then east on Highway 212 to Whitewood Valley Road, then south on Whitewood Valley Road to Interstate 90, then west on Interstate 90 to U.S. Highway 85, then north on U.S. Highway 85 to the point of beginning; ~~and that portion of Meade County within a line beginning at the junction of Interstate 90 and Elk Creek Road, then east on Elk Creek Road to Ricard Road, then north on Ricard Road to Tilford Road, then east on Tilford Road to Middle Alkali Road, then north on Middle Alkali Road to Alkali Road, then west on Alkali Road to 133rd Avenue, then south on 133rd Avenue to 206th Street, then west on 206th Street to Lazelle Street, then west on Lazelle Street to Interstate 90 then south on Interstate 90 to the point of beginning;~~
- (2) Unit PRE-11A: Bennett County, the portion of Jackson County south of State Highway 44 and Bureau of Indian Affairs Highway 2, and those portions of Mellette County south of State Highway 44 and west of U.S. Highway 83;
- (3) Unit PRE-11B: Bennett County, the portion of Jackson County south of State Highway 44 and Bureau of Indian Affairs Highway 2, and those portions of Mellette County south of State Highway 44 and west of U.S. Highway 83;
- (4) Unit PRE-11C: Bennett County, the portion of Jackson County south of State Highway 44 and Bureau of Indian Affairs Highway 2, and those portions of Mellette County south of State Highway 44 and west of U.S. Highway 83;
- (5) Unit PRE-11D: Bennett County, the portion of Jackson County south of State Highway 44 and Bureau of Indian Affairs Highway 2, and those portions of Mellette County south of State Highway 44 and west of U.S. Highway 83;
- (6) Unit PRE-11E: Bennett County, the portion of Jackson County south of State Highway 44 and Bureau of Indian Affairs Highway 2, and those portions of Mellette County south of State Highway 44 and west of U.S. Highway 83;
- (7) Unit PRE-11F: Bennett County, the portion of Jackson County south of State Highway 44 and Bureau of Indian Affairs Highway 2, and those portions of Mellette County south of State Highway 44 and west of U.S. Highway 83;

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(8) Unit PRE-15A: the portion of Butte County beginning at the junction of the South Dakota-Wyoming border, east on Sourdough Road to U.S. Highway 85, then south on U.S. Highway 85 to Interstate 90, then west on Interstate 90 to the South Dakota-Wyoming border, then north to the point of beginning;

(9) Unit PRE-15B: the portion of Butte County beginning at the junction of the South Dakota-Wyoming border, east on Sourdough Road to U.S. Highway 85, then south on U.S. Highway 85 to Interstate 90, then west on Interstate 90 to the South Dakota-Wyoming border, then north to the point of beginning;

(10) Unit PRE-27A: the portion of Fall River County not included in BHE-H3;

(11) Unit PRE-35A: the portion of Harding County west of U.S. Highway 85;

(12) Unit PRE-35B: the portion of Harding County east of U.S. Highway 85; and

(13) Unit PRE-49A: the portion of Meade County within a line beginning at the junction of Interstate 90 and Elk Creek Road, then east on Elk Creek Road to Ricard Road, then north on Ricard Road to Tilford Road, then east on Tilford Road to Middle Alkalai Road, then north on Middle Alkalai Road to Alkalai Road, then west on Alkalai Road 133rd Avenue, then south on 133rd Avenue to 206th Street, then west on 206th Street to Lazelle Street to Interstate 90 then south on Interstate 90 to the point of beginning; and

~~(13)~~ 14 Unit PRE-WRA: the portion of the state west of the Missouri River not associated with another prairie elk unit, excluding the Lower Brule Indian Reservation and Corson, Dewey, Oglala Lakota, Todd, and Ziebach counties.

RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA

Not Applicable.

RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA

1. Does the regulation or fee inhibit a user's ability to participate? No. The Department is recommending changes to prairie elk hunting unit boundaries and season dates to improve elk management on private land and simplify season dates.
2. Does the regulation increase the opportunity for new and existing users?
 - The proposed changes to license allocation would slightly increase elk hunting opportunities.
3. How does the regulation impact the next generation of hunters, anglers, trappers and outdoor recreationists? Increases opportunity for elk hunting in western South Dakota and simplifies prairie elk hunting units.
4. Does the regulation enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by getting families outdoors? Increases opportunity for elk hunting in western South Dakota.

FISCAL IMPACT

Minimal increase in license sales revenue.

APPROVE _____	MODIFY _____	REJECT _____	NO ACTION _____
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